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Song

This comparatively simple song teaches some vocabulary words, two verbs in the second person plural, and one way to ask questions.

Vocabulary

Be careful of the pronunciation of **au revoir**: it is only two syllables! As with **monsieur**, some of the sound is swallowed.

Practice situations with your student. For example, “I walk into a dress shop. A teenage girl is behind the counter. What should I say?” **Bonjour, mademoiselle.** “Her mother enters. What should I say?” **Bonjour, madame.** “I see my friend Mary at the park. What should I say?” **Salut, Marie!** (See the section **Politeness, French Style** after Lesson 6 in the Student edition for more discussion on when to use these words.)

1. Première Leçon

Chanson

Frère Jacques

Vocabulaire

1.	bonjour	hello; good morning
2.	salut	hi
3.	bon matin	good morning
4.	bon après-midi	good afternoon
5.	bonsoir	good evening
6.	bonne nuit	good night
7.	au revoir	goodbye
8.	à tout à l'heure	see you later
9.	monsieur	Mr.
10.	madame	Mrs. or Ms.
11.	mademoiselle	Miss

Grammaire

Subject pronouns

je	<i>I</i>	nous	<i>we</i>
tu	<i>you</i>	vous	<i>you</i>
il/elle	<i>he, she, it</i>	ils/elles	<i>they</i>

Dialogue

Bonjour, madame
Bonjour, mademoiselle
Salut, (friend's name)
Bonsoir, monsieur
Au revoir, madame
À tout à l'heure!
Bonne nuit, monsieur

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First Start French

Note on greetings: **Bonjour**

(literally “good day”) is the usual way of saying *hello*. **Bon après-midi** and **bon soir** are used to say *goodbye*, in the afternoon and evening respectively. **Bonne nuit** is like the English *good night*, used when you will not see the person again until morning. The word for *afternoon* (**après-midi**) is either masculine or feminine, so you may hear and say either **bon après-midi** or **bonne après-midi**.

Grammar

The student should memorize these subject pronouns:

Singular

je (*I*)
tu (*you*, informal)
il (*he*) / **elle** (*she*)

Plural

nous (*we*)
vous (*you*, formal or plural)
ils (*they*, masculine) / **elles** (*they*, feminine)

All nouns in French are either masculine or feminine (Lesson 2). There is no French pronoun for **it** because **il** is used when referring back to a masculine noun and the **elle** is used for a feminine noun. The pronoun **ce** (Lesson 8) can also be used to mean **it**. This use will be covered in Lessons 9 and 16.

Exercices

A. Traduction

- Bonjour, mademoiselle Hello, miss
- Bonne nuit, monsieur Good night, sir
- À tout à l'heure See you later
- Au revoir, madame Goodbye, ma'am
- Salut! Hi!

B. Grammaire

- In the third person, pronouns are always masc. (he) or fem. (she).
- When speaking to a close friend or young child, we use the pronoun tu.
- When speaking to an adult, someone deserving respect, someone in authority, someone we do not know well, or several people, we use the pronoun vous.
- When we greet someone we would address as **vous**, we generally add monsieur, madame, mademoiselle, or their name.
- It is okay to use salut when greeting a friend, but when you are being polite, you should use bonjour plus **monsieur**, **madame**, **mademoiselle**, or the person's name.

Tu and Vous

Another unique feature of French is the different forms of *you*. English once had two forms also, when *thou* was in common usage. **Tu**, the singular *you*, is used when speaking to a close friend, a child, an animal, or a thing. **Vous**, the plural *you*, is also used as a formal or respectful way to address one person. You say **vous** to someone deserving of respect, to someone in authority, to someone you do not know well, and, if you are a child, to any adult who is not a member of your immediate family.

Whether to use **tu** or **vous** within the family depends somewhat on the style of the family. Between some parents, spouses, and children, everyone addresses each other as **tu**. However, in more formal families, the children address the parents as **vous**. In very old-fashioned families, the spouses may address each other as **vous**,

akin to old movies where the spouses refer to each other as *Mrs. Jones* or *Mr. Jones*. When in doubt, use **vous**. Using **tu** in the wrong situation can be an insult or a sexual invitation. Somewhat surprisingly, when addressing God, French generally uses **tu**. While it would seem that respect would demand **vous**, intimacy demands the use of **tu**.

Dialogue

Bonjour, madame	Hello, ma'am
Bonjour, mademoiselle	Hello, miss
Salut, (friend's name)	Hi, (friend's name)
Bonsoir, monsieur	Good evening, sir
Au revoir, madame	Goodbye, ma'am
À tout à l'heure!	See you soon!
Bonne nuit, monsieur	Good night, sir (or Mr.)

Frère Jacques,

Frère Jacques,

Dormez-vous?

Dormez-vous?

Sonnez les matines!

Sonnez les matines!

Din, don, don.

Din, don, don.

Brother John,

Brother John,

Are you sleeping?

Are you sleeping?

Ring the morning bells!

Ring the morning bells!

Frère Jacques

Are You Sleeping?

Arr: Gilbert DeBenedetti

Musical notation for the first system of 'Frère Jacques'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff is empty. The lyrics are: 'Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques, Dor-me-z - vous? Dor-me-z - vous?'. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 3, and 5 above the notes.

Musical notation for the second system of 'Frère Jacques'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff has a few notes. The lyrics are: 'Son - nez les ma - ti - nes Son - nez les ma - ti - nes Din, don, don. Din, don, don.'. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 4, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1 above the notes. The instruction 'shift up!' is written above the first measure. The system ends with a double bar line.